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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY JR.**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September 13, 2005

The Honorable Fulton Sheen  
Chairman, House Tax Policy Committee  
1192 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Sheen,

Thank you for your forbearance in the House Tax Policy Committee schedule and for allowing us an opportunity to explain House Bill 4737 to your committee. There has been a letter circulated by the Detroit Police Officers Association (DPOA) dated 9 September 2005 that is inaccurate.

The initial utility users tax law became Public Act 198 of 1970. This Act did not have any of my proposed bill's stricken language. After expiration in the 1970s, we allowed the City of Detroit greater flexibility with regards to the Act, and the law worked fine.

The change made in 1990 was inadvisable in my humble opinion since the City of Detroit always dedicated the full amount generated by the utility users tax to its police department, as is the case today. The Legislature should not set the number of police officers, investigators or sergeants in the City of Detroit. This is best left to the local officials.

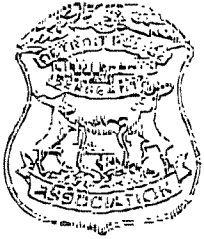
The amended law did not establish revenues for collection, as alleged in the DPOA letter. Rather, it prescribed how the revenues collected in excess of \$45,000,000 would be handled. Note that the number of Detroit police officers in 1984 was 3,530, which included, per the law's directive, sergeants, investigators and regular uniform police officers.

Attached also please find the chart of Detroit's population since 1980 ... a copy of a letter of support for House Bill 4737 from the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association ... a copy of the budget adopted by the Detroit City Council in June ... and a copy of a resolution supporting House Bill 4737 from the Detroit City Council.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this vital legislation.

For a Greater Detroit and Michigan,

George Cushingberry, Jr.  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



DETROIT POLICE

## LIEUTENANTS AND SERGEANTS

ASSOCIATION

September 13, 2005

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Sergeant James Gawlowski  
President

Lieutenant Eugene Goode  
Vice President

Sergeant Johnny Golden Sr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Sergeant Junetta D. Wynn  
Sergeant-at-Arms

Dear House Tax Policy Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association in support of House Bill 4737.


The purpose of this legislation is to capture every dollar from the Utility Users Tax for the retention and hiring of police officers in the City of Detroit. This is critical.

While the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association is extremely troubled by the loss of personnel in the police department, we must do what we can to identify every source of revenue to support our officers.

The Detroit Police Department cannot afford to lose \$10 million annually. To add this loss of revenue to an already dire financial situation would have a terrible impact on the Detroit Police Department and Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association members.

I urge you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
James Gawlowski  
President

**SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 4737**

By ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

WHEREAS, The Michigan House of Representatives is considering legislation — House Bill 4737 — to amend the City Utility Users Tax Act (*Public Act 100 of 1990*).

WHEREAS, The City Utility Users Tax Act affects just the City of Detroit — the only Michigan municipality with a population of 750,000 or more.

WHEREAS, The City Utility Users Tax Act allows the City of Detroit to "levy, assess and collect from users in (Detroit) a utility users tax . . . that shall not exceed 5%" and earmarks all of the revenue generated by the levy for hiring and retaining "police officers, investigators and police sergeants."

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit's 5% utility users tax raises roughly \$55 million a year for the City of Detroit Police Department.

WHEREAS, The City Utility Users Tax Act, as currently written, compels the City of Detroit to roll back the 5% tax to a rate that permits it to collect no more than \$45 million a year, if the number of police officers employed by the municipality falls below the November 1, 1984, level of deployment: 3,537 officers.

WHEREAS, Federal and state budget cuts, coupled with a recession that continues to cripple Michigan's economy, have contributed to the structural deficit facing the City of Detroit and precipitated layoffs throughout the municipality, including the Detroit Police Department.

WHEREAS, Reductions in the Detroit Police Department reflect a statewide trend; indeed, Michigan law enforcement agencies, collectively, employ 1,109 fewer police officers today than they did in 2001 — a 5 percent decrease, according to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES).

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit, for the first time since the inception of the City Utility Users Tax Act, will see its number of police officers fall below the November 1, 1984, level of deployment.

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit stands to lose \$10 million for hiring and retaining police officers, if the Michigan Legislature does not amend the City Utility Users Tax Act to allow it to maintain a 5 percent tax rate, despite the number of police officers, investigators and police sergeants falling below the November 1, 1984, level of deployment.

WHEREAS, The prospective loss of funding for the Detroit Police Department would prompt steep cuts in police personnel at a time when the City of Detroit is preparing to host several world-class events, including the 2005 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and the 2006 Super Bowl.

increase the cost of utility users, but rather, maintains the status quo in safeguarding funding for the Detroit Police Department. NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council urges the Michigan Legislature to support House Bill 4737, which seeks to safeguard funding for the Detroit Police Department; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick, Governor Jennifer Granholm, City of Detroit Lansing Lobbyist Marge Maloney, all Michigan state legislators, the Michigan Municipal League and the Detroit Police Officers Association.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas — Council Members K. Cockrel, Jr., S. Cockrel, Collins, Tinsley-Talbot, and President Mahaffey — 5.

Nays — None.

\*WAIVER OF RECONSIDERATION (No. 13) per motions before adjournment.

**Population of Detroit from 1980-2000**

